

Trip ton-miles is a measure of a single waterway's contribution to the whole waterway system. Trip ton-miles are computed by identifying every commercial cargo-carrying vessel that has plied a particular inland waterway and summing the products of the tons times the total trip-miles for each vessel trip. "Trip-miles" is the total distance from origin to destination. For example, a barge carrying 1200 tons of wheat might only travel 30 miles on the Illinois River but its total trip to New Orleans might be 1000 miles. This trip would contribute 1,200,000 trip ton-miles to the Illinois River. Small rivers often contribute to the traffic on larger rivers.

Domestic Traffic for Selected U.S. Inland Waterways in 2003
(Millions of Short Tons, Billions of Ton-miles¹ and Change from 2002)

(Millions of Short Tons, Billions of Ton-Miles, and Change from 2002)							Trip ²
Waterway	Length (miles)	Tons	%	Ton-Miles	%	Ton-Miles	%
		2003		2003		2003	
Atlantic Coast							
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, VA-FL	793	1.9	3.5	0.2	21.8	0.3	15.8
Intracoastal Wtwy, Jacksonville to Miami, FL	349	0.9	69.5	**	63.6	**	23.9
Gulf Coast							
Bayou Teche, LA	107	1.4	-10.0	**	-10.5	0.5	-18.3
Black Warrior and Tombigbee rivers, AL	449	21.0	10.3	3.7	5.8	7.3	10.5
Chocolate Bayou, TX	13	3.3	13.8	**	14.4	0.8	-.3
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, TX-FL	1,109	117.8	9.5	18.6	6.8	55.0	5.5
GIWW: Morgan City-Port Allen, LA	64	24.3	16.6	1.5	16.4	22.7	15.8
Petit Anse, Tigre, Carlin bayous, LA	16	2.5	13.1	**	6.9	3.2	22.5
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, AL and MS	234	6.2	-.2	1.2	1.1	4.1	13.9
Mississippi River System							
Allegheny River, PA	72	3.3	17.7	**	16.6	1.3	15.8
Atchafalaya River, LA	121	9.8	-8.8	0.6	-12.8	6.6	-7.9
Big Sandy River, KY and WV	27	22.6	-9.9	0.1	-9.3	6.1	-7.7
Cumberland River, KY and TN	381	20.6	-8.7	2.2	-14.8	8.8	-9.4
Green and Barren rivers, KY	109	7.9	-24.2	0.5	-31.0	2.8	-48.5
Illinois Waterway, IL	357	45.0	4.6	8.5	-1.6	41.2	-5.6
Kanawha River, WV	91	19.4	.8	1.3	19.4	8.0	-7.3
McClellan-Kerr Arkansas R. Nav. Sys., AR/OK	462	13.0	9.1	2.7	6.2	7.6	10.3
Mississippi River Mpls, MN to Mouth of Passes	1,814	308.2	-2.5	167.5	-8.1	223.2	-6.1
Minneapolis, MN to Mouth of Missouri River	663	77.8	-7.4	14.6	-13.8	85.0	-10.5
Mouth of Missouri R. to Mouth of Ohio R.	195	111.5	-8.2	18.8	-8.4	115.3	-9.9
Mouth of Ohio River up to Baton Rouge, LA	720	185.5	-6.5	112.3	-7.8	194.6	-7.4
Baton Rouge up to New Orleans, LA ³	130	212.9	-4.3	16.3	-6.4	180.1	-7.7
New Orleans, LA to Mouth of Passes ³	106	115.8	.8	5.5	-1.1	65.6	-1.6
Missouri R. (MO, KS, NE & IA) to Sioux City, IA	732	8.1	-2.6	0.3	-37.4	0.6	-47.4
Monongahela River, PA and WV	129	27.6	-27.8	1.1	-20.6	8.3	-16.0
Ohio River, PA, WV, OH, KY, IN, and IL	981	228.8	-5.9	54.2	-5.8	119.7	-6.7
Ouachita and Black rivers, AR and LA	332	2.2	57.7	0.3	41.2	1.1	62.8
Red River, LA	212	4.2	12.6	0.3	-15.9	2.7	9.1
Tennessee River, TN, KY, MS and AL	652	49.8	13.4	6.7	.5	26.8	6.5
Pacific Coast							
Columbia River System, OR, WA, and ID ³	596	16.5	.5	0.6	12.7	2.2	21.3
Columbia River and Willamette River							
below Vancouver, WA and Portland, OR ³	113	16.2	1.5	0.6	-9.9	2.2	20.6
Vancouver, WA to The Dalles, OR	85	9.4	18.0	0.7	17.3	2.2	21.7
The Dalles Dam to McNary Lock and Dam	100	8.5	17.5	0.7	22.0	2.1	21.8
Above McNary L & D to Kennewick, WA	39	6.5	27.0	0.2	26.0	1.8	27.7
Snake River (WA and ID) to Lewiston, ID	141	5.3	24.6	0.3	29.6	1.6	25.5
Willamette River above Portland, OR	118	1.3	-22.3	**	-93.1	**	-14.5

1. ** denotes ton-miles of less than 50 million.

2. Internal and intraport tons times total distance from origin to destination.

3. Includes coastwise entrance channel miles for tons and ton-miles but not for trip ton-miles.